

Vermont Participation in America's Wars

Summary

- The 86th IBCT's upcoming Afghanistan mission is Vermont's largest single deployment since World War II

War/Conflict	Number Vermonters Militia/National Guard (estimated)	Number Vermonters Federal Service (estimated)	Vermont Population (estimated)	Notes
Revolution	8,000	100	35,000	Small numbers of Vermonters had commissions or served in Continental Army
1812	2,500	50	218,000	A few Vermonters enlisted in US Army, but vast majority served in militia
Mexican	100	100	314,000	Vermont opposed entry into Mexican War and refused to call up militia
Civil War	28,200	5,000	320,000	Some Vermonters served in US Army, Marines, Navy, but most were organized in state as volunteer units
Spanish-American	1,030	300	344,000	Small number of Vermonters were on federal active duty before war
WW I	2,100	16,000	352,000	VTNG organized as 1st Vermont Regiment and mobilized before deployments were organized only federally
WW II	1,900	50,000	359,000	Vermont State Guard organized. Estimated 6,000 Vermonters served in it at some time during war.
Korea	1,200	9,000	378,000	172nd Infantry Regiment and 206th Field Artillery Battalion deployed to Germany
Vietnam	225	19,000	400,000	131st Engineers deployed to Vietnam, as did selected individuals of both VTARNG/VTANG
Desert Storm	250	800	563,000	Estimated 200 more VTARNG/VTANG members served on active duty at CONUS assignments
GWOT 2001-2008	2,200	1,000	609,000	Includes soldiers and airmen mobilized for CONUS Operation Noble Eagle
86th IBCT 2009-2010	2,000	1,200	653,000	

Revolution

- Estimated 8,000 Vermonters served in the militia at some time between 1775 and 1783
- Vermont's muster rolls and payrolls include 119 militia organizations ranging from company/detachment to regiments
- Vermont's militia organizations operated for as little as a few days to as long as eight years, and some were activated on multiple occasions

War of 1812

- Best estimate is that about 2,500 Vermonters served
 - Vermonters served in Vermont, upstate New York near Vermont border, western New York and Ontario
 - Battles of Lake Champlain, Lundy's Lane, Plattsburgh, and others
 - US forces roster before Battle of Plattsburgh included 1,812 Vermonters
 - Governor did not support war or federal use of state militia
 - Governor attempted to recall militia from Plattsburgh, but soldiers refused to leave
 - Vermonters opposed War of 1812 and embargo on trade with Great Britain because of ties to Canada
 - Incomplete and inaccurate muster and pay records
 - Militia calls were for as little as a few days or as long as two years
 - Unknown numbers of Vermonters were casualties

Mexican War

- Vermont legislature passed 1844 resolution opposing annexation of Texas, attempting to prevent new slave state from admission to Union
- Vermont raised 84 troops willing to serve, and they organized as a company and attached to 9th US Infantry
- 9th US Infantry was commanded by Norwich University President and Vermont Militia Brigadier General Truman Ransom, who was appointed a federal Colonel
- Vermonters distinguished themselves in August, 1847 battle outside Mexico City
- Ransom advanced to command of future President Franklin Pierce's brigade when Pierce was injured
- Ransom was killed leading 9th Infantry during capture of Mexico City
- Vermont's company suffered 14 soldiers killed, in addition to Ransom

Civil War

- Approximately 28,200 Vermonters served in Vermont units.
- Vermont units included 17 infantry regiments, 1 cavalry regiment, 3 light artillery batteries, 1 heavy artillery company, 3 companies of sharpshooters, and 2 companies of frontier cavalry.
- An estimated 5,000 more served in the units of other states, the regular Army, Navy and Marines.
- This total of over 33,000 members of the military includes 166 black Vermonters, out of a statewide population of 709. 66 of these African-Americans were members of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry.
- Vermonters suffered 5,194 deaths, including 1,832 men killed or mortally wounded in battle, 2,747 who died of disease or other causes, and 615 who died while prisoners. (More than 2,200 Vermonters were taken prisoner during the war).

Civil War

- Prominent Vermonters involved in conflict included
 - 1st Vermont Brigade commander and Medal of Honor recipient Lewis Grant
 - 2nd Brigade commander George Stannard
 - US Secretary of War Redfield Proctor
 - Governors Barstow, Bell, Farnham, Grout, Hendee, Mead, Ormsbee, Page, Pingree, Washburn and Woodbury
- Washburn served as Lieutenant Colonel of 1st Vermont Regiment before becoming Adjutant General, where he played a key role in raising, training and equipping troops for Vermont's units
- Washburn was elected Governor after Civil War and was Vermont's first Governor to die in office

Civil War

- Norwich professor Alonzo Jackman, also a Vermont Militia Brigadier General, declined command of 1st Vermont regiment and remained in Vermont to assist in raising and training troops
- Jackman commanded Norwich Corps of Cadets, Civil War veterans and militia on Canadian border after Confederate Raid on St. Albans
- Governor Pingree received Medal of Honor, as did Vermont Adjutants General William Wells and Theodore S. Peck

Spanish American War

- Vermont's National Guard in 1898 was 50 officers and 410 enlisted, for a total of 460
- Federal call for troops assigned Vermont a quota of 627
- In May, 1898 Vermont mobilized organization designated 1st Regiment, which consisted of 1,030 soldiers under command of Colonel Osmand D. Clark
- Organization was based in southern US and did not see combat before demobilization in November
- 27 soldiers died of disease and other causes
- Vermont's Spanish-American War veterans included Adjutants General Tillotson and Johnson, US Senator Frank Greene, Admirals Dewey and Clark

World War I

- 13,952 Vermonters enlisted or drafted for Army service
 - More than half served overseas
- 1,800 Vermonters served in Navy and Marines
 - Atlantic Fleet commander Admiral Henry T. Mayo was from Burlington
- 1,390 Vermont casualties, including 612 who were killed in battle or died of disease
 - St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne
- Prominent Vermonters who served included Adjutants General Tillotson and Campbell, Governor Emerson, WW II 43rd Division commander Wing, WW II Marine Corps General and Medal of Honor recipient Edson

World War I

- VTNG deployed as 1st Vermont Infantry
 - 2,104 soldiers
 - 55 officers, 2,049 enlisted
 - Most assigned to 26th Division
 - 101st Ammunition Train
 - 101, 102, 103 Machine Gun Battalions
 - 102, 103 Infantry
 - 4th Field Hospital

World War I

- 57th Pioneer Infantry
 - Included about 300 Vermonters who had been part of 1st Vermont Infantry
 - Included soldiers from several other states, most notably Tennessee
 - 57th P.I. received replacement soldiers and distributed them to other units

World War II

- 50,000 (estimated) Vermonters mobilized
 - 1,400 women
- 1,243 Vermont casualties, including:
 - 520 Army and Army Air Force killed in action
 - 156 Navy, Marines and Coast Guard KIA
- 1,882 members of Vermont National Guard saw active federal service
 - 43rd Division, made up of units from Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine
 - Service in Pacific, including New Guinea and Philippines

World War II

- Prominent Vermonters who served included General Leonard Wing, 43rd Division commander, Governors Gibson, Arthur and Snelling, Senator Stafford, USMC General and Medal of Honor recipient Edson, 86th Brigade commander Leonard Wing, Jr., Adjutants General Page and Cram
- Vermont State Guard was founded
 - Estimates are that 6,000 Vermonters served in VSG at some point during war
 - Organized for 1,472
 - 111 officers, 1,361 enlisted

Korean War

- More than 9,000 Vermonters served during Korean War era
- 92 Vermonters were killed in action
- National Guard's 43rd Division was activated for service in Germany
 - 206th Field Artillery Battalion
 - 172nd Infantry Regiment

Vietnam War

- More than 19,000 Vermonters served
 - National Guard mobilized 131st Engineers, portions of two other units and individuals of the Vermont Air National Guard
- 102 Vermonters were killed in action
- First Vietnam Veterans of America chapter was founded in Rutland
- First Vietnam Veterans memorial was constructed in Sharon

Operation Desert Storm

- 131st Engineer Company mobilized for service in Southwest Asia
- Other units and selected individuals of VTARNG and VTANG activated for federal service within United States

Global War on Terrorism

2001 to 2009

- Approximately 2,200 Vermont National Guard soldiers and airmen served in Southwest Asia, CONUS or elsewhere
- In addition, an estimated 1,000 Vermonters served on federal active duty in all branches of the military
- To date 26 Vermonters have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan during Operations Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom

86th IBCT to Afghanistan 2010

- Notified in June 2008 as part of long term planning process
- Part of Army new commitment to have National Guard units deploy for 12 months in country rather than previous standard of 15
- Organization completing as many requirements as possible within Vermont before being activated and moving to mobilization site
- Increased role for Vermont State Guard during 86th IBCT deployment?

Conclusion

- Vermont's National Guard/militia has traditionally been and continues to be larger and more active in comparison to its per capita population than that of most other states

Partial Bibliography

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- US Census: 1810, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1900, 1920, 1940, 1950, 1970, 1990, 2000
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- Vermont Adjutant General Roster of Soldiers in the War of 1812-1814
- Vermont Adjutant General Revised Roster of Vermonters in the Civil War
- Vermont Adjutant General Roster of Vermonters in World War I
- Vermont Adjutant General Roster of Vermonters in World War II
- Vermont Adjutant General Roster of Vermonters in the Vietnam War